

Corners ^{and} Characters of Rhode Island



By *Wm. L. Linsell*

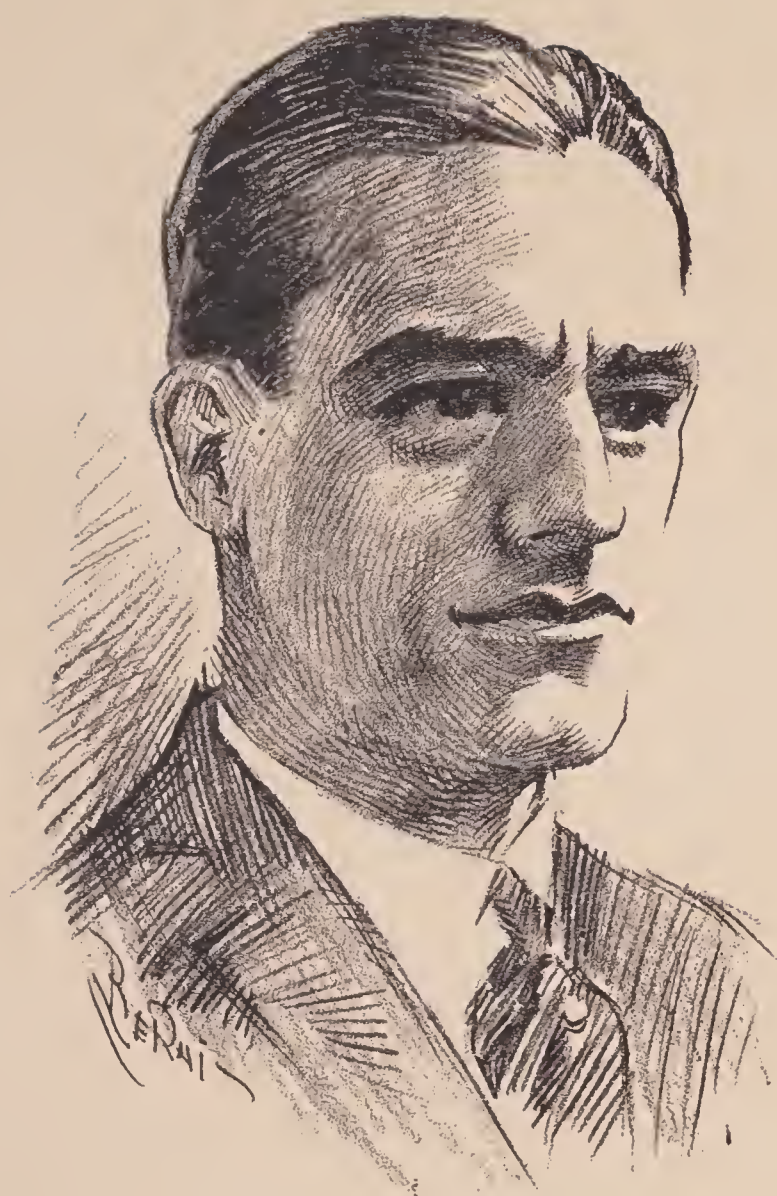


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GEORGE D. LASWELL

**“CORNERS and CHARACTERS
of RHODE ISLAND”**

by George D. Laswell

Staff Artist
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THE R. I. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Strangers visiting the Brown University campus often mistake the building pictured opposite as a part of the university and ask what department of collegiate activities is housed there. When told that it is the home of the Rhode Island Historical Society and has no official connection with the university, they express surprise.

The architectural design of the building and its complete harmony with its academic surroundings make the question a natural one. Located on Waterman street, adjoining the old university library and facing the campus, it might seem an usurper, did not its ivy-covered walls so suggest a meeting place of savants.

The building is eighty years old, and in the collection of historic books, pictures and other articles which it houses are many objects of great value. The Rhode Island Historical Society was organized in 1822, and has been active ever since. Its membership includes some of Rhode Island's most noted men and women, and its meetings, held in this building, always attract more than passing interest.



THE MOSHASSUCK RIVER

One who stands on the banks of the turgid Moshassuck river to-day can hardly realize that this small stream was an important factor in New England's transportation system a century ago. Such it was, however, and many are the cargoes its waters have borne from tidewater in Providence to the Blackstone river and thence to Worcester and northern New England.

The stream was never navigable for sailing craft and achieved its part in the world of commerce by means of the lowly towboat. Along its banks were beaten paths in which hundreds of horses trod, pulling behind them flat-bottomed craft loaded high with the produce of many lands. There were no railroads and the highways were often impassable for any but the lightest rigs, making water transportation necessary wherever possible.

Later, the railroads came and the Moshassuck's usefulness as a means of transportation was past. Along its banks, mills and factories sprang up and its waters were impounded to turn water wheels or heated in boilers to make steam. Then came the age of electrical power and the Moshassuck's usefulness further declined, until, to-day, it is but little more than a large uncovered drain.



THE PETER RANDALL HOUSE

More than a quarter of a century before the Revolution Peter Randall, a substantial citizen of Providence, built himself a home at what is now Number 54 Branch avenue. The house was completed in 1748 and still stands, after one hundred seventy-six years, as a monument to its builder.

Viewed from without, the house to-day seems small, yet one finds four rooms on the ground floor and four chambers above. When first built, it was heated by fireplaces, on the ground floor, while the youngsters occupying the chambers above absorbed their heat from the bricks of the chimney, which passed through the second floor on its way to the roof.

It is probable that Dame Randall had a hand in its planning and that the capacious brick oven, in the base of the chimney, was designed by her to be the latest thing in culinary apparatus. Once the bricks were hot, it retained its heat for fully twenty-four hours, and what a story of Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts, with their pies, puddings and roasts, it could tell!

Those were the days when apples, potatoes and even halves of "beef critters" and hogs were stored away in the fall for winter use, and the capacious cellar under the entire house probably proved a good storage vault. The house is in fair repair to-day and seems likely to round out at least two hundred years of usefulness, unless ruthless commercialism demands that it be razed and its site occupied by something more imposing.



WHERE A POET WOODED AND LOST

“Clad all in white, upon a violet bank
I saw thee half reclining; while the moon
Fell upon the upturn'd face of the roses,
And on thine own, upturn'd—alas, in sorrow!”

It was in the garden in the rear of this house, at Benefit and Church streets, that Edgar Allan Poe first saw Mrs. Sarah Helen Whitman, on a warm night in summer, and it was of this vision that he afterward penned the above lines. It was a case of love at first sight with the impetuous poet, whose subsequent romance with Mrs. Whitman is one of the classic love tales of history.

At that time, Benefit street was one of the principal residential streets of the city and Mrs. Whitman's was among its best-known families. Sarah Helen Whitman had written several poems of more than passing merit and it was not strange that she came to reciprocate Edgar Allan Poe's love for her, despite the protests of her family.

She often delved among the books on the shelves of the old Providence Athenaeum, but a few doors from her home on Benefit street, and it was in the cloistered recesses of this building that Poe pressed his petition for her heart. Finally, matters had progressed so far that a marriage covenant was written, only to be broken later upon the insistence of Mrs. Whitman's parents. They refused to sanction the poet's dissolute habits, after he had repeatedly “reformed” and fallen from grace.

His romance ended, Poe left Providence broken in heart and the impression which Mrs. Whitman had made upon him can best be realized after reading his “To Helen,” and “Annabel Lee,” both of which poems, he frankly said, had been inspired by her. That Mrs. Whitman was also unable to forget, was shown by her pen portrait of Poe, later written. The second verse reads:

“Again I saw the brow's translucent pallor,
The dark hair floating o'er it like a plume;
The sweet imperious mouth, whose haughty valor
Defied all portents of impending gloom.”



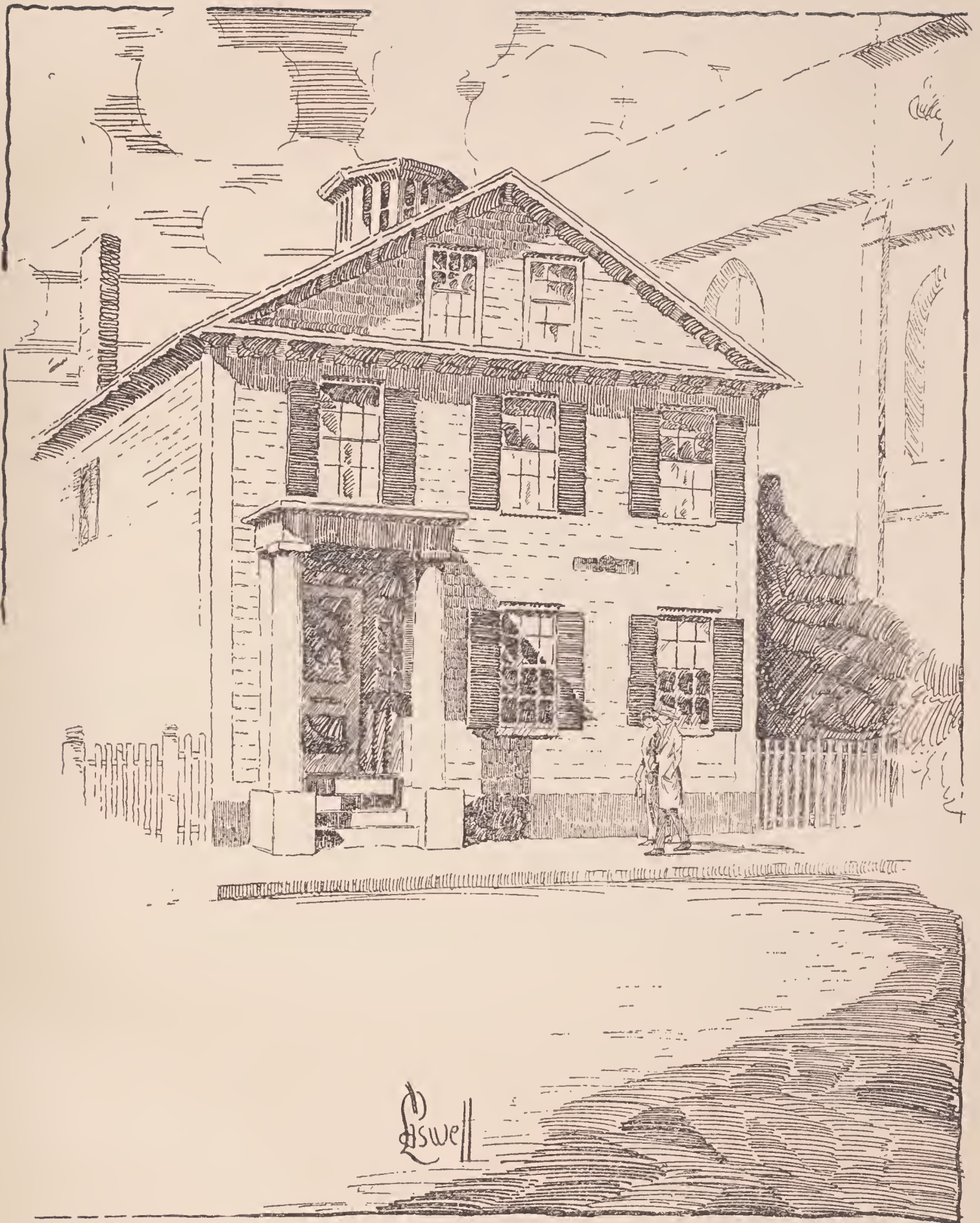
THE BURROWS HOMESTEAD

When Joseph Burrows, prosperous hardware merchant on old High street (now Westminster) decided to erect a substantial family home, in 1818, he chose as a site a lot at what is now number 205 Broad street, then embraced in a small farm on what was the outskirts of the town of Providence. The land also included the lot now occupied by Union Congregational Church.

In the rear was a pond, from which the present Pond street derived its name, a part of which was filled in by Mr. Burrows to provide grounds for his residence. The building was completed in 1818 and was owned by members of the Burrows family until two years ago, when it was sold to others.

The architecture is typical of the period, and the heavy sills, overlays and rafters mutely speak of a day that is gone. The only departure from the rather severe Colonial lines was the small observation tower, or "lookout," on the roof, which to-day makes an excellent place for a modern radio receiving set.

After conducting his hardware trade for many years, Mr. Burrows embarked in the lumber business, becoming one of the founders of the Burrows & Kenyon Company, to-day one of the largest lumber concerns in New England.



THE ARCADE

When Cyrus Butler and other citizens of Providence announced plans for the erection of an "Arcade building," to extend from Westminster to Weybosset street, in 1827, they were derided by friends and business associates. The shopping district of the city was then on North and South Main streets and Water, and few believed that stores on Weybosset and Westminster streets would get much patronage.

Mr. Butler and his associates went ahead with their plans, however, and decided to pattern their building after the Madeleine of Napoleon, in Paris. Its erection involved great labor and skill, particularly in the making and placing of the large columns which later brought it fame throughout the country.

Each of these columns weighs twelve tons, and they all came from Bear Rock ledge, in the town of Johnston. They were blasted out of the rock and shaped there and hauled to Providence by James Olney. It was necessary to build a special lowgear to transport them and the bridge at Olneyville was strengthened to meet the great strain. Fifteen yokes of oxen were employed and when the last column was in place, Mr. Olney announced that the job, taken under contract, had practically ruined him. Major James Bucklin had charge of placing the columns, said to be the largest in America, with the exception of those in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

When the Arcade was completed, late in 1828, the "three sisters," milliners, were among those who opened shops within its walls. This shop became the fashion centre of the city for women's bonnets and through its influence the other shops in the building began to enjoy a prosperous trade.

Cyrus Butler owned the east half of the building and the Arcade Corporation the west half. The cost of the building was announced as \$145,000.



THE BAJNOTTI FOUNTAIN

Strangers entering or leaving the Union Station in this city have often admired the beautiful fountain placed near its east approach, but have undoubtedly known nothing of the circumstances which prompted its erection. To Rhode Islanders, however, the fountain tells the story of a man's great love for his wife and his desire to honor the city in which she was born.

When A. Paul Bajnotti, of Turin, Italy, married Miss Carrie Mathilde Brown, daughter of the late Nicholas Brown, of Providence, the occasion was described as the "culmination of an international romance." Mr. Bajnotti took his bride to Italy, where they remained, except for occasional visits to Mrs. Bajnotti's former home.

In 1898, Mr. Bajnotti, communicating with Mayor Baker of Providence, said he desired to honor his wife by a gift to her native city, in the form of a memorial fountain, to cost \$10,000. Mayor Baker, after consultation with other city officials, accepted the proffer and a commission was named and empowered to carry the project through. At the request of the commission, many noted artists submitted plans. The design submitted by Miss Enid Yandell was finally accepted and on June 26, 1901, the monument was unveiled with fitting ceremony.

The figures of a woman and three men, which support the fountain basin, depict the "Struggle for Life." "Life" is symbolized by the woman, "the soul of an angel," and earthly tendencies, duty, passion and avarice are represented by the male figures. The mantle of Truth blowing from the woman's shoulders forms a drapery for the group. The monument stands about twenty feet high.

Carrie Brown Bajnotti died in 1903 and in the following year the "Carrie Tower," also erected as a memorial to her by her husband, was unveiled on the Brown University campus. Mr. Bajnotti died in San Remo, Italy, March 14, 1919.



THE ATHENAEUM

For more than eighty-five years the massive stone bulk of the Athenaeum, at College and Benefit streets, has been one of the landmarks of Providence. Nicholas Brown, Moses B. Ives and Robert H. Ives in 1836 gave the land on which the building stands and also provided \$6000, on condition that \$10,000 more toward the cost of the structure was raised, as well as \$4000 to match a similar sum furnished from other sources for the purchase of books.

Ground was broken in 1837 and the building was completed the following year. At first the old Franklin Society occupied a portion of the building, but since 1849 the whole of the structure has been used by the Athenaeum.

In the Athenaeum is an interesting reminder of the period when Edgar Allan Poe visited this city. Prof. Harry L. Koopman, librarian of Brown University, had heard that Mrs. Whitman, to whom Poe was at that time engaged, had expressed admiration for an anonymous poem that appeared in the American Review in December, 1847.

At the time she and Poe were at the Athenaeum, and Mrs. Whitman asked him if he had read the poem, "Ulalume," and if he knew the author. Poe replied affirmatively and admitted that he had written it. Before leaving the Athenaeum Poe signed the poem. Dr. Koopman, by way of verifying the story, went to the Athenaeum and looked up the issue of the Review in which the poem was supposed to have appeared. The magazine was found, and in it was Poe's signature, in his own hand.



IN WINTER QUARTERS

When winter comes along and brings with it the suspension of dredging operations up and down the harbor, the dredging fleet goes into winter quarters at Fox Point. Dredges, lighters and other craft and the extensive paraphernalia of the trade are all huddled together on and along the docks used by the J. S. Packard Dredging Company, the concern which does most of the work in this vicinity.



STAMPERS' HILL

Stampers' Hill is really the top of Constitution Hill. It is the name given to the little section about the junction of North Main street and Stampers street, one of the oldest districts in Providence.

Stampers' Hill for generations was believed to have gotten its name as the result of a stratagem practiced by early settlers against the Indians. According to this tradition, the settlers, one cold winter night, having reason to believe the Indians were gathering to attack the district, went out on the cold ground and set up a great stamping with their feet on the frozen earth, to give the impression that there were a great many more of them than there really was. So well did the stratagem work, according to the story, that the Indians did not attack that night or any other night.

This tale was accepted as the explanation for the name of the district until a prosaic historian sought to dig out the facts. He learned that at the top of the hill there were once several appliances for grinding and crushing corn into meal. These appliances were known as stampers and hence came the name Stampers' Hill.

Most of the houses in the settlement were of the Georgian period, as the one shown at the left of the picture indicates. All of the structures were erected previous to the Revolution and occupied by merchants, bankers and ship owners.



THE COOKE HOUSE

Built in 1825 on South Main street, opposite Crawford street, the Cooke House remains as one of the finest examples of the Colonial type of buildings in Rhode Island.

Designed by John Holden Greene, architect, this house and another similar to it, which formerly stood just to the north of the Cooke house, were looked upon when erected as among the most palatial in the city. The two houses had an unusual arrangement of courtyard between them, the yard leading to stables and other outbuildings in the rear. The courtyard, as one of the city's shortest highways, still survives, as the picture indicates, while some of the old outbuildings are still standing.



DOWN CHURCH STREET

Church street slants down the hillside from Benefit street to North Main street, taking its name from St. John's Episcopal Church which, with its chapel, occupies nearly the whole length of the north side of the street.

The land on the north side of Church street was given to the society that was to grow into St. John's parish more than two hundred years ago by one Capt. Nathaniel Brown of Kettle Point, who, two years later, was arrested for failure to pay the Congregational church tax assessed against him in his town, which was then a part of the colony of Massachusetts. It was about two hundred years ago that the first church was built upon the site, known as King's Church.

This building, which served to house the activities of the parish for almost ninety years, was demolished in 1810 to make way for the present church. The existing structure was opened in 1811, when the name was changed to St. John's. The building in the foreground of the drawing is the chapel, built in 1853. The tower and one corner of the church structure itself are seen behind the chapel. The tower on the present building was paid for in the usual way, but the spire of King's Church, which preceded it, was financed by a lottery held for the purpose.



ALONG THE WATERFRONT

The rotting piles, the decaying warehouses and the nest of little old shanties crowded into this view are all a part of the Providence river waterfront. With the constant stream of vessels coming into and leaving the port, with the immense receipts of oil, coal, lumber and other shipments, it would seem as if it must be impossible for such idle sections to exist along the waterfront. But there are many of them, scattered here and there from Fox Point up to Crawford street and from there down the west shore to Field's Point.

Some of these groups of ancient structures, which constitute a constant fire menace to the waterfront, have already been burned out; others are slowly giving away before the advance of business. Within a few years, probably, views such as this will no longer be found along the upper end of the river.



THE OLD MORRIS HOMESTEAD

Of the thousands who pass the intersection of North Main street and Rochambeau avenue daily, there are probably very few who give this old house, on the corner of these thoroughfares, but a passing glance. Overshadowed by its more pretentious neighbors, it stands there seemingly out of place, unless one knows its history. Even the little wellhouse at the rear, with its crude wooden pulley and iron-bound bucket, is scarcely noticed.

It was many years before the Revolution that the great brick chimney of this homestead was laid and the house built around it, as was the custom in those days. Its hand-hewn beams and rafters were fixed securely in place with wooden pins and are still in service to-day, apparently as strong as ever. The boards on its walls are held in place by hand-wrought nails and its stone foundation, laid by masons of more than one hundred and fifty years ago, withstands the jar of modern traffic without a tremor.

When one steps within the house, however, he at once feels that he is shut away from the world of to-day and that he has stepped back at least a century. In every room is furniture as old as the house itself, or perhaps older, of which Miss Phebe Morris, owner of the house and its contents, is very proud. She has repeatedly refused large sums offered for some of her furniture, she says, and is almost daily besieged by dealers and collectors.



THE "AUNTIE GREY HOUSE"

The "Auntie Grey House," at Number 18 Beacon avenue, is said to be the oldest house on the west side of Providence. The building is believed to have been built about 1750 and at the time was considered by those who "lived in Providence" to be "away out in the country." Now it is but a few moments walk from the centre of the business district.

"Auntie Grey," who was the occupant of the house for many years and from whom it took its name, was the daughter of Capt. John Smith, a shipmaster who sailed from this port to the far places of the earth until he was lost at sea October 3, 1780.

"Auntie Grey" married Capt. Robert Grey, another Providence mariner, who was also lost at sea. Capt. Grey met his death in the great gale of September, 1815, and thereafter for many years until her death "Auntie Grey" lived alone in the little one-story frame dwelling.



STEPHEN HOPKINS HOMESTEAD

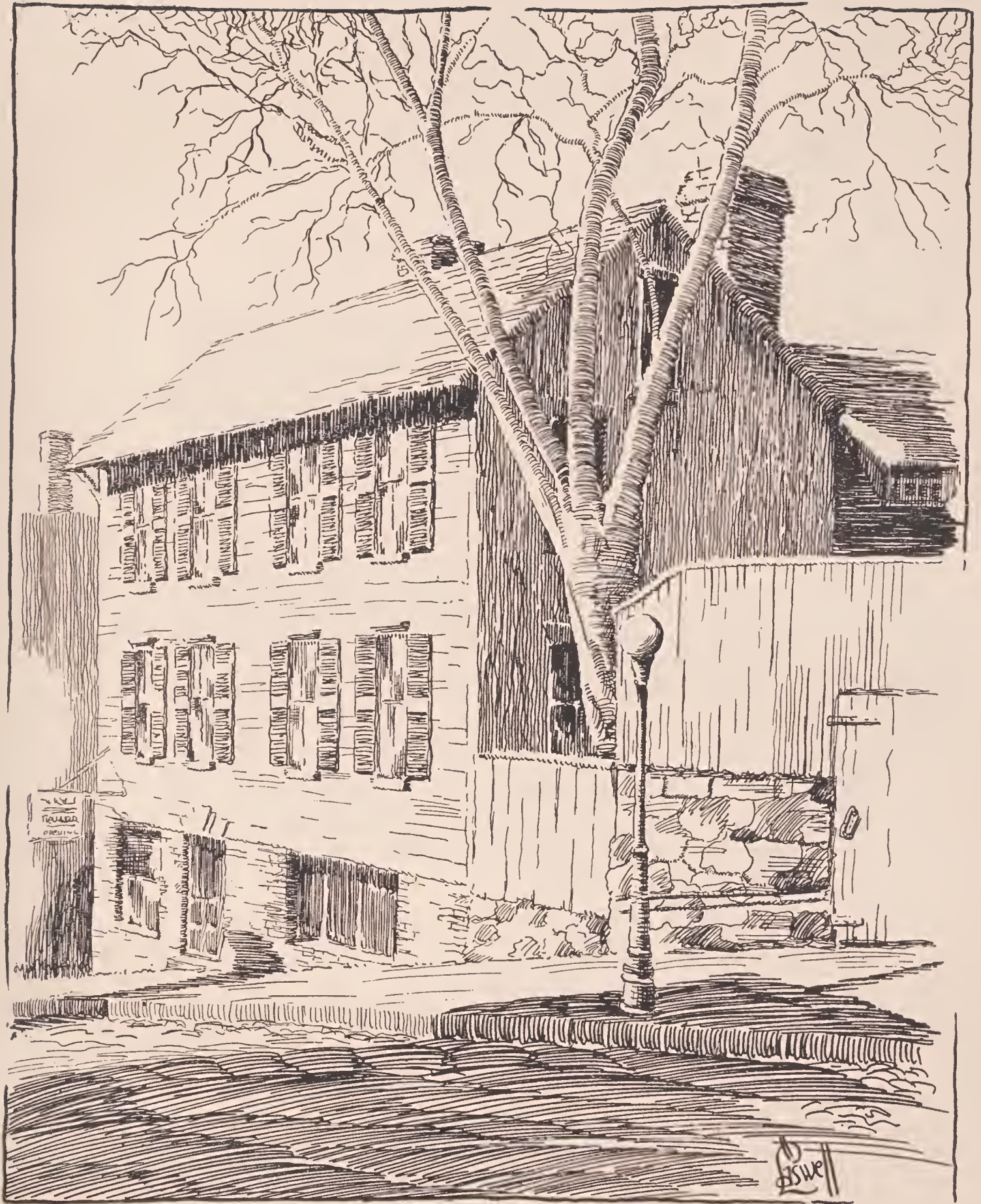
This venerable house for nearly half a century was the homestead of Stephen Hopkins, signer of the Declaration of Independence, one of the first Chief Justices of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and ten times Governor of his State.

The house, more than one hundred and eighty years old, sets now on Hopkins street, between South Main and Benefit, on the location to which it was removed in 1804 from its original site on South Main street, near by. Built from handhewn planks and timbers in 1742, the house was situated in what was then the very heart of Providence, as befitted the residence of one of the town's most important and influential citizens.

There Stephen Hopkins, merchant, shipbuilder and public servant, lived and labored from that date until his death in 1785. It was there that he had his home when, in 1747, he was appointed a Justice of the first Supreme Court set up in Rhode Island, when, four years later, he was made Chief Justice of that Court, when he was time after time elected to the governorship, until his service covered a period of ten terms, and when, in 1764, he was made the first Chancellor of Brown University.

It was from this home that he went, in 1776, to Philadelphia, to take part in the discussions that resulted in the drawing up of the Declaration of Independence and to sign that famous document, as one of the Representatives of Rhode Island. And it was in this house that he died at the age of seventy-eight, after a life devoted to the service of his fellow citizens.

From the time of Hopkins's death in 1785 until 1804 the homestead stood on its original site. In the latter year, however, the demands of business having encroached upon the district, the old house was moved around the corner and up the sharp incline of Hopkins street to its present location, where, still well-preserved, it remains in use. Except for the brick underpinning, which was made necessary by the grade of Hopkins street when the house was moved to its present spot, the building appears about as it did when Hopkins occupied it.



THE FLEUR DE LYS BUILDING

When one turns north at the foot of the Waterman street hill and looks across the grounds of the First Baptist Meeting House to Thomas street, his attention is at once attracted by the building pictured opposite. Those who have travelled through Europe wonder how this bit of Normandy or Brittany came to be transplanted here in such incongruous surroundings, while others ask the origin of such an unusual architectural design.

The building was erected by Sydney R. Burleigh, foremost among Providence artists, and designed for a studio building. Completed in 1886, it has since been occupied by none but artists and has come to be known as the art centre of Rhode Island.

In designing the building, Mr. Burleigh was assisted by the late "Ned" Willson, one of the city's leading architects of the time, and the best types of architecture in ancient Brittany and Normandy were freely drawn upon. The style is of the seventeenth century and the building is one of the best examples of the "half-timbered" structure in existence in the State.

The decorations which cover the front of the structure were originally designed by Mr. Burleigh and Mr. Willson, who carved the woodwork and made the unique decorations in the mortar with which the front is covered. Their work attracted considerable attention and at times hundreds of persons congregated in the church grounds across the street to watch their progress.

The interior is divided into several studio suites, which at present are occupied by Mr. Burleigh and several of the other more prominent members of the city's art colony.



A "LIGHTNIN' SPLITTER" ROOF

Persons familiar with the early history of Providence may recall the transit of Venus, in 1769, observance of which brought the present Transit street its name.

The artist, recalling that Joseph Brown placed his telescope on the top of the Transit street hill, to observe the transit of Venus, one hundred and fifty-five years ago, set out to view the place, but found it apparently much changed. On the way, however, he saw the steep-roofed house at Number 53 Transit street, and stopped to sketch it.

The old building is perhaps one of the best examples of the "lightnin' splitter" type in the city. Its roof, rising to a sharp peak, extends down level with the top of the front door. On the second floor are chambers, each with its sloping walls, with a high attic room above. Small dormer windows bring light to the middle of the second floor.

The early history of the house is unrecorded. For many years, however, it was owned by the Gorham estate.



THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

If Richard Waterman, a freeman, had not been adjudged "erroneous, heretical and obstinate," the historical old building pictured opposite might not have been erected. It was because of his obstinacy in holding to a freedom in religious belief that he was driven out of the Salem colony and came to Providence, where he afterward became one of the most wealthy and influential members of the Rhode Island colony. He died here in 1673.

The first Richard Waterman built his house on the original home lot near the present corner of Waterman and North Main streets and lived there for a number of years. The old homestead at Benefit and Waterman streets, now occupied by the University Club, was erected by one of his descendants a number of years later, although the exact date of its construction is not recorded.

When the University Club was founded in this city, its organizers selected the old Waterman homestead as the best club house available. The property was purchased and has since been the club's home. A wing added to the Waterman street side of the original structure is now used as a club dining room. There have also been other additions on the other side and rear of the building.

On the land now occupied by the dining room annex for many years stood a monument to the memory of Richard Waterman, placed there by his descendants.



AN EARLY BRICK HOMESTEAD

At Numbers 537 and 539 North Main street stands the first brick house that was built in the compact part of the town of Providence. It was fashioned from hand-made brick about 1759 and for more than a century and a half has served steadily as a dwelling place for men.

Time and the elements have washed from its exterior every detail of sharpness of outline and left it mellowed and softened. The sharp edges of the bricks have long since worn away and have become rounded and smooth, as if made that way. The very corners of the building itself are rounded, as they might be if carefully filed with a mighty file.

The building originally constructed as a private dwelling was known as the Deputy Governor Elisha Brown house. Later it was used as an inn, at which, Lafayette is said to have been entertained. It now houses two small stores on the ground floor, while the upper stories are occupied as tenements.



"SHAKESPEARE'S HEAD," IN "GAOL LANE"

Whenever Stephen Hopkins, signer of the Declaration of Independence, felt that he should acquaint the general public with issues of his day, he repaired to the "Sign of Shakespeare's Head," in Gaol Lane, where John Carter published the Providence Gazette. He wrote copiously and John Carter put his words into type, that all who bought the Gazette might read. Occasionally, the writings of Mr. Hopkins would not accord with the views of certain public officials and the Providence Gazette would not appear. Then the writer and publisher would "haul in their horns" a little and another issue of the Gazette was under way.

Gaol Lane later became Meeting street and the old building in which John Carter and his associates published the Providence Gazette still stands there at Number 21. The "Sign of Shakespeare's Head," which topped a post before the house, has long since gone, however.

John Carter was a Philadelphian, who had been taught the printer's trade by Benjamin Franklin, and came to Providence a young man. The Providence Gazette was founded by William Goddard, who later entered the journalistic field in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. "Sarah Goddard & Company" resumed publication of the paper in 1766 and Sarah Goddard's son, William, was John Carter's partner for a time.

John Carter became one of the best-known men in Rhode Island. His name is preserved through the John Carter Brown family. The descendants of William Goddard are also among the most prominent citizens of the State. The writings of Stephen Hopkins, as they appeared in the Providence Gazette, are said to have been a great factor in preparing the public for the great struggle which was to result in independence of the colonies.



THE OLD COLONY HOUSE

Built in 1761 and occupied from 1762 to 1900 as a "Court and State House by the Colony and State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations," the old State House on North Main street is familiar to thousands as the present home of the Sixth District Court.

In the old structure, called by some, Rhode Island's Independence Hall, an act was passed May 4, 1776, "constituting Rhode Island the first free and independent republic in America," and asserting her absolute independence of England two months before the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.



THE FRANKLIN HOUSE

When the quaint old building at Number 33 Market square, on the northeast corner of College street, which is herewith shown, first opened its doors in 1823 as the Franklin House, the approach of the vehicle seen at the lower left hand of the picture would undoubtedly have caused a sensation, if nothing more. For in those days the rumbling stage-coach with its four-in-hand was the usual method of travel and Market square was the centre of commercial activities in the then town of Providence. The Franklin House was one of several hostelries that were located along that thoroughfare and out North Main street, the one next to it being the famous old Manufacturers' Hotel, which stood where the present What Cheer building is now located.

The building has an unusually wide frontage on Market square, where it is four stories in height, the brick facade being carried up above the roof in an ornamental square-shaped projection that recalls the old Dutch style of architecture. A sub-roof with a row of windows, extends along the entire top of the house, affording light and head-room in what was familiarly designated as the loft among the earlier residents. The ancient appearance of the building is somewhat lessened by the series of fire escapes that are now on the front of the structure in accordance with the building law requirements.

It was used for hotel purposes for many years, but later stores were placed on the ground floor and the interior of the upper floors altered to accommodate offices for attorneys and other lines of business and professions, and at one time the upper floors were used as dormitories for Brown students.



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SPIRE

Standing on an elevation which commands a wide view of the city, the First Congregational (Unitarian) Church at Benefit and Benevolent streets, with its towering spire, is one of the city's historic landmarks. Built in 1816 on the site of an earlier church which had been destroyed by fire, the edifice had, and still has, in its spire a bell cast by Paul Revere and his son at Canton, Mass.

The first church was built in 1723 by members of the society on the site now occupied by the Superior Court building. It later became the old town house, and a new church, in 1795, was erected for the society at Benefit and Benevolent streets. This was destroyed by fire in 1814, to be replaced two years afterward by the present edifice.

When the new church was built, only the minister's room could be heated. From its great fireplace, just before the services began, coals were taken and placed in individual foot-warmers in the pews. Many families brought their own embers from home. In those days the church was lighted by candles, which at times provokingly dripped from the chandelier, to the discomfiture of pew-holders in that vicinity.



THE DEACON TAYLOR HOMESTEAD

The early history of this old building at 9 Thomas street, now the home of the Pen and Pencil Club of Rhode Island, is somewhat obscured, but old documents possessed by Dr. George T. Spicer, Number 223 Thayer street, indicate that it was built by Deacon Edward Taylor, his great-great-grandfather, between the years 1775 and 1800. Deacon Taylor, a grandson of Benjamin Gorham of Providence, was born on Cape Cod in 1751 and died in the house pictured opposite in 1832. He was deacon in the First Congregational Church (Unitarian) and in its chapel is a pulpit dedicated to his memory.

Deacon Taylor married Alice Dexter, daughter of Christopher Dexter, prominent member of one of the city's most influential families. Their daughter, Alice Taylor, married Henry F. Clark, who graduated from Brown University in 1809 and died in 1820. Their daughter married Joseph Carpenter and for many years lived where the Providence Public Library now stands. The Thomas street house remained in the family until Mrs. Carpenter finally sold it to the New Haven railroad, which bought all the property on Thomas street when it built the Consolidated Line tunnel, later selling the buildings and land not required for its purposes.

For a few years, the house was used as a rooming house, until purchased by the Pen and Pencil Club of Rhode Island for its headquarters.

Workmen making changes in the interior of the building recently declared it one of the best examples of the Colonial carpenter's art they had seen. Its massive oak timbers, held by wooden pins, were as sound and firm as when placed in position, and the old hand-wrought iron nails were blue and strong as when they came from the forge.

The building is about midway of the hill on Thomas street and faces the grounds of the First Baptist Meeting House, another of the city's historic old structures.



THE OLD PIDGE HOUSE IN PAWTUCKET

A survey of famous old buildings in Rhode Island would not be complete without this historic old Pawtucket homestead. Under its roof Washington and Lafayette were entertained and in its rooms French troops, brought to these shores to help in our country's fight for independence, were quartered.

The house was built during the latter part of the seventeenth century by Jeremiah Sayles, who conducted it as a tavern for many years. The house derives its present name, however, from the Pidge family, direct descendants of Jeremiah Sayles, in whose possession it remained for a long time.

The property was recently acquired by Granville S. Standish of Providence, who is refitting the interior in as near its original condition as possible. He hopes, with the assistance of the Rhode Island Historical Society, to preserve it as a historical shrine, open to the public.



PAWTUXET COVE

About the busiest places in Rhode Island in the spring of the year are the boat yards and anchorages along both sides of Narragansett Bay, where hundreds of small craft of every description take the water after lying idle during the winter months. But a small part of them are housed when not in commission, the rest lying upon the sandy beaches in sheltered coves, with covers of tarpaulin to protect them.

Perhaps the most popular of such places near Providence is Pawtuxet Cove, where hundreds of motor and sailboats are herded together for the winter, and about the time the pussy willows bloom the entire district presents a scene of great activity. Sunday is the busiest day of all, and from morning until night, scrapers and paint brushes wielded by amateur hands, ply industriously. When the boats are thoroughly scraped and painted, they are rolled down the sands into the water, there to remain until hauled ashore again in the fall.

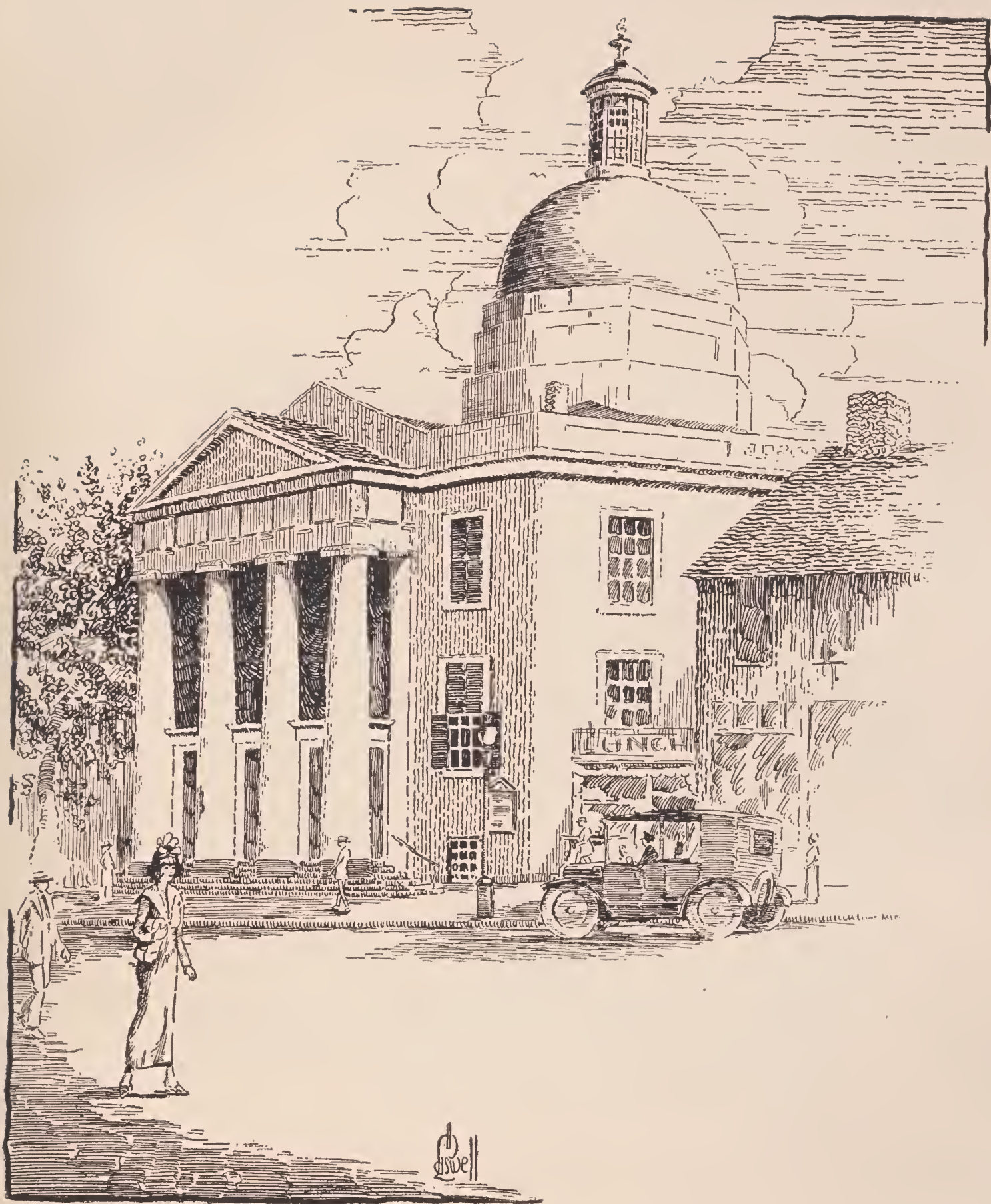


"THE ROUND TOP"

Few buildings in Providence are more widely or more familiarly known than "The Round Top," the place of worship of the Beneficent Congregational Society. Situated on the south side of Broad street near Chestnut street, it is surmounted by an immense white and gilded dome, forming a conspicuous feature of the city's skyline. It is one of the most striking examples of architectural design in the city, with spacious portico and large wooden pillars and wide flights of steps extending nearly entire frontage of the building. The building is entirely of wood, the exterior following the beautiful simplicity of the Doric order while the interior favors the Colonial in its treatment and finish.

More than a century old, it is one of the "show" places of the city and always proves an interesting study for visitors. The Beneficent Congregational Society was the first of that denomination on the west side of the river and was formed March 7, 1743, although it was not until 1748 that the first house of worship was erected on the site of the present building, on land given by Daniel Abbott, who also gave the open space adjoining the church property and known as Abbott Park.

The building shown in the opposite sketch was erected in 1809, was dedicated January 1, 1810, and was from plans by John Newman, Asa Bosworth, and Smith Bosworth, architects. The brick chapel which adjoins it, facing on Chestnut street, was built about thirty years ago by the late Henry J. Steere as a memorial to his father, Jonah Steere, who was for many years a member of the church. The original cost of The Round Top was \$20,000. In 1836 improvements were made at an expense nearly equal to the original cost. But the building has never been changed from its original conception.



THE ESEK HOPKINS HOUSE

Among the historic shrines of Providence, none is perhaps better known and more revered than the Esek Hopkins house, on the easterly side of Admiral street. Its history is tersely told on a brass plate placed upon it by the City of Providence, which reads as follows:

"Esek Hopkins, 1718-1802, First Commander-in-Chief of the American Navy, lived in this House."

Thus is the history of the building told, but the story of its famous occupant, whose enemies forced his dismissal from the navy in seeming disgrace, and the courage and fortitude with which he accepted this crushing blow, is an epic of American patriotism which raised Esek Hopkins higher in the estimation of his fellowmen than his services as commander-in-chief of their infant navy.

Hopkins was appointed commander-in-chief on December 21, 1775, six months after the General Assembly of Rhode Island had demonstrated the State's readiness for naval action by authorizing the chartering of two vessels, fully armed and manned, to protect the trade of the colony. Abraham Whipple was placed in command and on the day of his appointment fired the first gun in naval action and took the first naval prize in the Revolution. When the Continental fleet was organized, Whipple was given command of the *Columbus*, to serve under Commander Hopkins.

Commodore Hopkins flew his flag on the *Katy*, which he afterwards renamed the *Providence*. He was ordered to attack the enemy ships in Chesapeake bay and then proceed to Rhode Island, to destroy the British fleet then in these waters. Smallpox broke out aboard his ships, however, and finally he sailed for New Providence, in the Bahamas, where he captured cannon and small stores of ammunition. Then he started north again and, after capturing two small vessels, encountered the British Frigate *Glasgow*. In a running battle, the *Glasgow* escaped, after disabling some of Commodore Hopkins's ships.

This was the final episode in an unlucky career for Commodore Hopkins, whose enemies in Congress began to demand his removal. On January 2, 1778, he was dismissed from the service.

Space forbids a detailed story of Commodore Hopkins's subsequent career, except the statement that he returned home, served in the Rhode Island Legislature and was made a member of the Council of War. He died February 26, 1802. The house in which he lived was given the city of Providence by Elizabeth Angell Gould and has become a public shrine. It is the meeting place of Esek Hopkins Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.



THE OLD MARKET BUILDING

Few structures are so conspicuously located, or so widely known as the "Old Market Building" at the east side of Market square, now occupied principally by the Providence Chamber of Commerce. Built by lottery in 1773, it was used successively by the town market, various Masonic bodies, City Hall and the Board of Trade, which later became the Providence Chamber of Commerce. For many years its brick facades were completely hidden beneath a thick coating of plaster and paint, but some ten years ago this was removed and the building restored to its original outward appearance.

On the outside of its west end are two tablets of bronze, which recite historic incidents in connection with the building. The smaller one at the northwest corner marks the site of the "Providence tea party," where on Thursday, March 2, 1775, a bonfire was made of more than three hundred pounds of tea and burned, while bells were tolled, speeches made and the "assembled Sons and Daughters of Liberty pledged themselves not to use the East Indian herb till they could do so free from English taxation."

The other tablet, at the lower southwest corner, was erected by the Masonic fraternity to commemorate the associations between the organization and the building. This is one of the notable structures in the Masonic history of the country, for here it was that Thomas Smith Webb organized St. Johns Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, in 1802, and the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island in 1805, after having written the militant ritual of Masonry upon the lines that is in vogue at the present time. In this building Providence Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1, was instituted in 1797; Providence Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters, organized in 1818, and Mount Vernon Lodge occupied it in 1824.

It was first occupied by St. Johns Lodge in 1797, when the town granted that lodge the privilege of adding a new story to the upper part of the building to be used as a hall unit until it should be taken over for municipal purposes. After the city charter was issued in 1836 the building was gradually absorbed by the city and afforded cramped accommodations for various municipal officials, until their removal to the new City Hall in Exchange Place in 1878. On January 1, 1880, the building was leased to the Providence Board of Trade and has since been occupied by that association and its successor, the Providence Chamber of Commerce.



THE FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

The "Mother Church of American Baptists" is the name often applied to the First Baptist Church of Providence and to its historic edifice, designated the First Baptist Meeting House, members of the Baptist denomination throughout the world turn as to a shrine. Not far away repose the bones of Roger Williams, founder and first pastor of the church, and upon the hill above its grounds is located Brown University, the great educational institution which Baptists were largely instrumental in founding.

Aside from its historic attributes, however, the old edifice has other claims to greatness. One cannot look at its spire without being impressed by its beauty and, as a whole, the building is considered one of the best examples extant of early colonial architecture. It was designed by James Gibbs, after plans executed for the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, and is in the fine classic manner of Sir Christopher Wren. James Sumner and James Brown were the architects.

Many historic occasions have been observed within its walls, including funeral solemnities when news of the death of George Washington reached Providence. In June it is the scene of graduation exercises of Brown University, as it has, since the university was founded.



PELEG RHODES HOMESTEAD—1678

After coming to Rhode Island from Rehoboth because of religious differences with the authorities, in 1646, Zachary Rhodes established himself in Pawtuxet, where he became a large landowner. For a time he was treasurer of the town of Providence, and he also held other offices.

Among the eight children of Zachary Rhodes was Peleg Rhodes, who assisted his father in carrying on the large estate and who built the southerly end of the house pictured opposite at what is now number 2194 Broad street, Pawtuxet, in 1678. Twelve years later the house was enlarged, to accommodate a growing family and in 1878 it was remodeled again by its owners.



THE JOHN BROWN HOUSE

Erected in 1786, and referred to by John Quincy Adams in 1789 as "the most magnificent and elegant private mansion that I have ever seen on this continent," the John Brown House, 52 Power street, is still pointed out as one of the city's most beautiful dwellings, and represents the finest work of the Georgian period.

The statues which surmount the gate posts are celebrated in poetry through the writings of Sarah Helen Whitman. For more than a century they have looked down on passers-by and the fancies of children have been stimulated by the tale of how these statues come down from their pedestals and embrace each other when they hear the church bells strike at midnight.

Wharves, houses and an "extensive distillery" were among the possessions of John Brown, Providence pioneer and brother of Moses Brown, the Quaker, whom the Duke de la Rochefocault-Lincourt, a French nobleman, highly praised for his achievements in a letter written to friends in France during a visit here in 1795-97.

John Brown was a merchant prince, a manufacturer and a trader, whose fortune was largely used for the public good, as evidenced in his donations to Brown University and other public institutions. He was also a patriot and the leader in the plot which resulted in the burning of the British schooner Gaspee, on the point which now bears the vessel's name, a few miles down Narragansett Bay.

In the mansion on Power street, hospitality was freely given and when George Washington came to Providence, he was a guest there. Brown University Commencement dinners were also held under its roof. In recognition of his public service, his social distinction and sound judgment, John Brown was sent to Congress as Representative from Rhode Island for two years. The house now contains the finest private Shakespearean collection in the world.

Given to Historical Society



THE NATHANAEL GREENE HOMESTEAD

It was in and about this historic homestead in Coventry that Rhode Island citizens gathered to honor the Rhode Island Quaker who became second in command of the American army in the Revolutionary War and the military genius of his age.

Nathanael Greene was but twenty-eight years old when he assumed charge of iron works established in Coventry, and it was in the house pictured opposite that he lived when his country's call came. It was also here that he left his bride when he went away.

The subsequent career of this Rhode Island patriot is told in every school history. It is unfortunate that he removed to Georgia after his service in the Revolution was ended and lived in the South until he died. Rhode Island can justly claim him as her own Revolutionary hero, however.



"OLD STONE HOUSE"

As one passes along Cranston street going in a westerly direction, his attention is arrested just as he crosses Bridgham street by a one-story stone dwelling house sitting sideways to the street and a few feet back from the fence line. Partially covered by English ivy, it forcibly reminds one of the picturesque homes in the rural sections of England, its trellised doorway in the middle of the house giving an added touch to the picture.

The house was erected by an English immigrant named John Ledward, a stone mason, who came to this country with his family about 1840 and at once erected the little stone house. There were four sons and two daughters in the family, the sons all going to West-erly in early life where they were identified with the granite industry.

Located directly opposite Gilmore street in what was then the suburban section, Mr. Ledward remained the owner only a comparatively few years, for in 1854 the property was purchased by the late Elisha Paine and has continued in the Paine family up to the present time, a period of about seventy years.

The house is substantially constructed, all the stones used in its walls having been cut by Mr. Ledward himself in the back yard of the little estate and then laid in cement. It was originally intended for a one-family dwelling, but in recent years was divided into a two-family house. It is one of the landmarks along Cranston street.

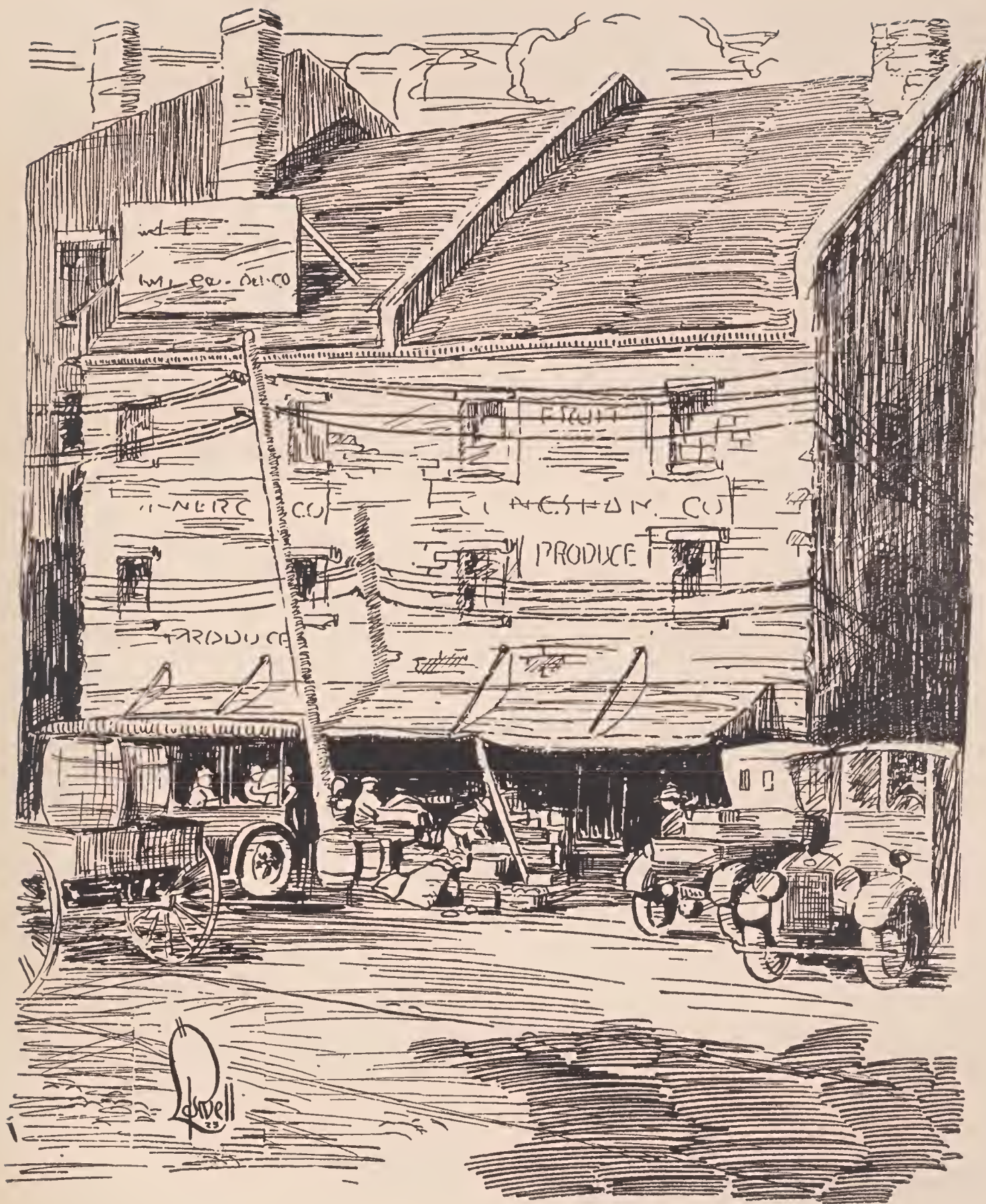


THE MARKET PLACE

Every weekday morning, while the city still sleeps, heavy farm wagons and ponderous trucks pound their way over the pavements of Canal street and add their loads to the mighty pile of produce that feeds Providence from day to day. For generations Canal street has been the city's wholesale market place, that busy, noisy and always picturesque centre where farmers come to sell their goods and dealers come to buy them.

The buildings that line the market place and house the wholesale firms are ancient ones. Many of them have been in use for more than a century. Their early nineteenth century forms squat in sharp contrast to the graceful modern "skyscrapers" of the financial district that tower over them from just across the river. It is the quaintness of their architecture and their grimy, worn exteriors that give these old market buildings the charm that appeals to the artist.

Seen through the mist that rises from the steaming pavements under the warming rays of a morning sun, with its ancient buildings, its bustling, haggling throng of farmers, commission merchants and buyers, its great heaps of fruit and vegetables and its inevitable legion of pigeons which, like men, get their living there, the market place presents a scene that has its appeal, too, for the layman.

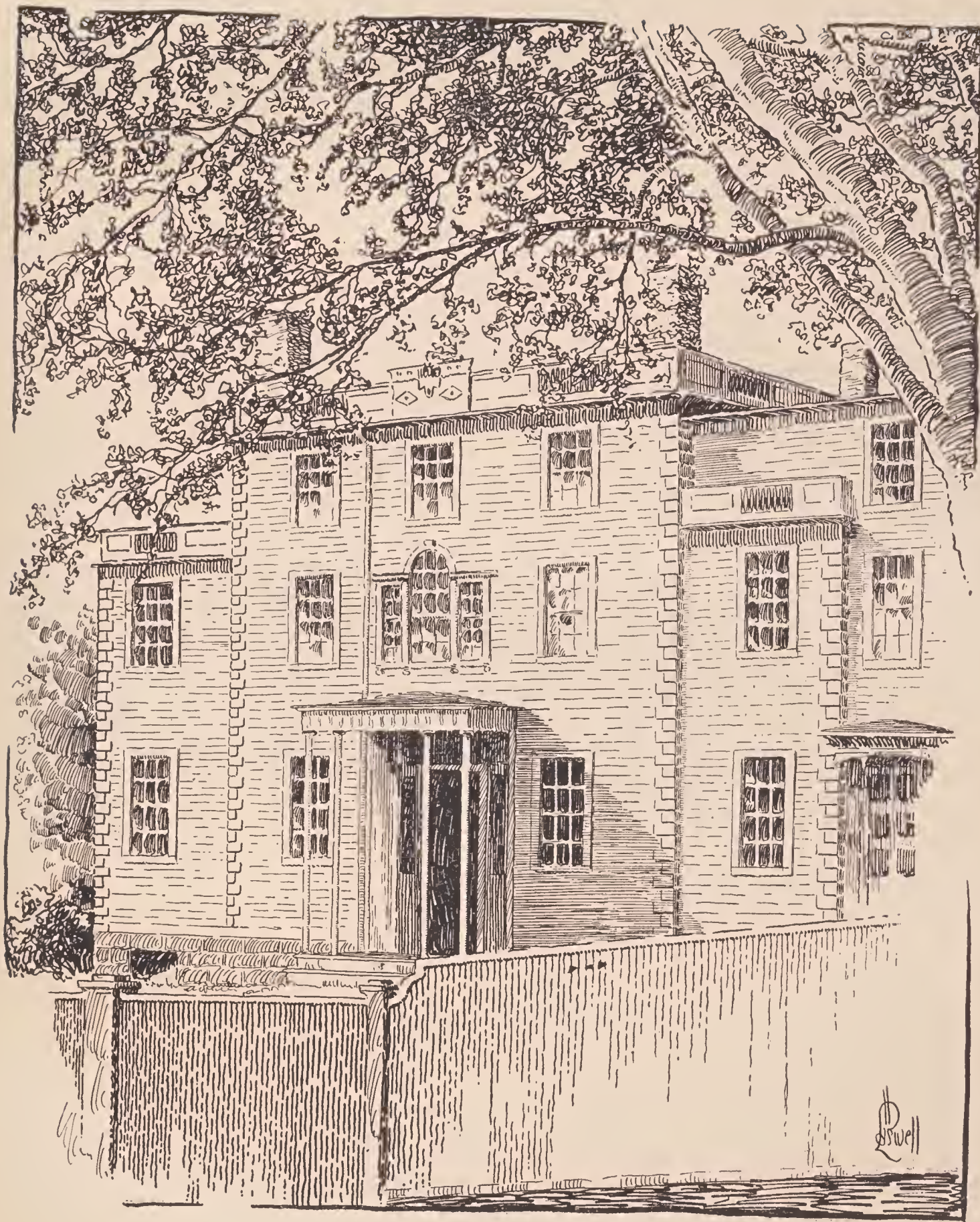


THE SULLIVAN DORR HOUSE

In this old house at the corner of Benefit and Bowen streets, was planned Rhode Island's bloodless revolution, of 1842, called in histories, "The Dorr War," and to this same old house Thomas W. Dorr, leader of the revolt, returned to die in retirement after being liberated from prison, where he was serving a sentence for treason. The whole story is familiar to most Rhode Islanders, however, and cannot be repeated here.

Pope's villa at Twickenham is supposed to have furnished the model for the Dorr Mansion, which was built by Sullivan Dorr, father of Thomas W. Dorr, in 1809-10. Standing back from and above the street, it is approached by a flight of stone steps set in the wall which surrounds the grounds, and, altogether, spoke of luxury and refinement until its environment underwent a great change. Its mural decorations, the work of a Neapolitan artist who visited Providence in 1810, were known afar.

In the rear of the mansion, on the original home lot of Roger Williams, is a monument marking the grave of the founder of Providence and six members of his family.



THE COLE HOMESTEAD, COLE'S STATION

Every commuter and excursionist using the Rocky Point and Buttonwoods trolley lines is familiar with the conductors' announcement "Cole's." Few, however, are aware of the fact that this station gets its name from the farm upon which it stands and that by walking a short distance eastward is to be seen the old Cole Homestead herewith pictured. It is one of the oldest, if not the oldest dwelling house now standing in Rhode Island.

It is now owned by the E. A. Cole estate and has been in the Cole family since 1823. It was built by Deputy Governor John Greene for his son, Major Job Greene, who married Phebe Sayles, a grand daughter of Roger Williams, January 22, 1684. The land on which the house stands was part of a large tract purchased from the Narragansett sachem, Miantonomi, October 1, 1642, by John Greene, a founder of Warwick. During the long life of Job's son, Judge Philip Greene (1705-1791), the homestead, then as afterwards known as "Occupasuetuxet," or Pastuxet, was the centre of the social and political life of the town. Benjamin Franklin and other notable men of the period are known to have been guests there.

The homestead is in an unusually good state of preservation having been constructed of the heavy solid timbers generally found in buildings of the colonial period. Two rooms of the structure are said to have been erected in 1638 and the remainder of the house in 1674.



THE WALKER HOMESTEAD

The Walker Homestead on Centre street, East Providence, was built in 1792 by Richard Walker, a descendant of the "Widow Walker" who, with her two sons, was a member of the party of colonists led by Rev. Samuel Newman, who emigrated from England about 1640. It has the distinction of having stood in two States and three towns—Rehoboth and Seekonk, in Massachusetts, and East Providence, in Rhode Island. The property has always remained in the Walker family, the land upon which it stands being a part of the tract purchased from the Indians by one of Richard Walker's ancestors.

This was the second dwelling built on or near the present site, the wood for which was cut on the estate. In his youth Richard Walker went to sea, but most of his life was spent in this house, which at that time was considered one of the finest in that section. After his death his only son, Capt. Lewis Walker, a veteran of the War of 1812, inherited the homestead. He died in 1861, and after the death of his widow in 1899 it became the property of her daughter, Miss Mary Walker, who is still living at the age of eighty-eight.

From this house Capt. Lewis Walker rode horseback to Boston to attend the sessions of the Massachusetts Legislature, and the north-east chamber was his court room, where he presided as judge in addition to carrying on his trade as a blacksmith in his smithy across the road, and running his farm.



THE DUNCAN HOUSE

This stately mansion is situated at number 103 Smith street, directly opposite the rear of the State House, and has several times been talked of as a suitable one for a "Governor's Mansion." At one time a proposition was made that it be purchased by the State and renovated for such a purpose, but the project failed of consummation. During the World War it was occupied as an annex to the State House, furnishing quarters for the Rhode Island Draft Board as well as the State Fuel and Food Administrators, who took possession of the premises in November, 1917.

In late years the estate has been known as the Smith House, although older residents are more familiar with it as the "Duncan House," it having been the home for a number of years of Alexander Duncan, a Scotchman who came to this country about 1820, and, marrying into one of the old Rhode Island families, amassed a large fortune. He was the owner of the widely known "Duncan estate," which included Butler Exchange, the Arcade and considerable property extending from Exchange place to the water front. The house was built about 1800.



THE JOHN CARTER BROWN HOUSE

When this old mansion was built, at Power and Benefit streets, by Joseph Nightingale, about 1791, it was called the finest mansion in Providence. To-day it is called one of the finest colonial houses in the country.

The house came into possession of Nicholas Brown in 1814 and later was the home of John Carter Brown, member of the firm of Brown & Ives, and one of the most prosperous merchants of his day. His greatest fame, however, was gained as a collector of books and his collection of Americana, is now housed in the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, for the erection of which Mr. Brown also bequeathed \$150,000.



THE TRUMAN BECKWITH HOUSE

As one goes up College Hill, at the northeast corner of College and Benefit streets, he comes to an imposing square brick mansion of the later Colonial style, that forms the first of a number of the former-day homes of the wealthiest residents of Providence. It was built by the late Truman Beckwith, who died in 1878, who, although he pursued various interests was in the cotton business for fifty-five years.

When the family of Mr. Beckwith learned that he was about to erect a home for himself on this site, he is accredited with saying, "I can't see why Truman wants to build up there in the lots!" But the young merchant apparently knew his own mind and built his house "in the lots." It was designed by John H. Greene, the designer and builder of many of the fine old houses on the East Side of Providence. Among these were the Sullivan Dorr mansion on Benefit street, the Mrs. John Carter Brown's house on Benevolent street, St. John's Episcopal Church, the First Congregational Church.

Mr. Beckwith was born in 1783 and lived most of his life in Providence, although in his earlier years mercantile pursuits took him to other cities, especially to Savannah, Ga., where he was engaged in the buying of cotton for a number of years and in this connection built one of the old cotton warehouses on South Water street in 1817. The following year he was one of the men who established the Merchants Bank in Providence. He was a member of the building committee that erected the Dexter Asylum in 1827-28, and the What Cheer building in 1851.



THE BETSEY WILLIAMS COTTAGE

One of the show places of Providence is this old cottage in Roger Williams Park, wherein dwelt Betsey Williams, descendant of Rhode Island's founder, and the donor of the park which bears her illustrious ancestor's name. The cottage and park came into possession of the city in 1871, when Betsey Williams died, and the only provision attached to the gift was that the city erect in the park a memorial to Roger Williams. The statue was unveiled in October, 1877.

The cottage was erected by Nathaniel Williams, about the year 1773, for his son, James Williams, father of Betsey. James Williams spent the remainder of his days there, as did his daughter. Nearby, on Elmwood avenue, was the home of Joseph Williams, youngest son of Roger Williams, who at one time owned the 103 acres now embraced in the park. This house was torn down in 1886. The bodies of Joseph Williams and members of his family lie in a little burial ground within the park limits.

The Betsey Williams cottage has been carefully preserved by the city and its old furnishings delight the eyes of lovers of antiques. At certain hours during each week it is open to the public, with a caretaker present to guard its treasures.



CRAWFORD ALLEN HOUSE

Providence, in its East Side residential section, is noted for its numerous examples of fine Colonial architecture. Many houses standing in that section still bear the imprint and influence of the days that preceded a century ago. Among these latter may be mentioned the Crawford Allen house, at 12 Benevolent street, which possesses all the lines that typified the finest Colonial mansions.

It was built by the late Crawford Allen about 1818, for his sister, Miss Candace Allen, and was left by her to her brother, Crawford Allen, and through him became a part of the estate inherited by Mrs. John Carter Brown. The land upon which the house stands is a part of an original grant to Thomas Field, a brother of Charles Field, for whom Charles Field street was named.

Situated high on a bank, with a massive stone wall in front topped by a low iron fence, the old dwelling sits side-wise to the street, affording an unobstructed view of the porticoed front entrance, with its series of columns and old-fashioned door, with its heavy brass knocker. The patriarchal appearance is further heightened by windows of many small panes of glass, the casings of which are particularly noticeable because of their rigorous simplicity, in contrast to the elliptical arch over the second-story centre window which is a distinctive feature of the architecture of that period. True to type, is the low balustrade that extends along the edge of the roof, giving the house the appearance of a greater height than it actually possesses.



THE GOVERNOR DYER HOUSE

One of the best types of the Colonial mansion of a century or more ago, of which there are several on the East Side, is the Governor Dyer house at 154 Power street. Although called the "Governor Dyer" house by the present generation, because it was the home of the second Governor Elisha Dyer and where he died, it was not the original Governor Dyer house. That belonged to Elisha's father, the first Governor Dyer, and was located on the south side of Westminster street, nearly opposite Aborn street.

The house shown in the sketch was erected in 1818 by John Holden Greene, but came into the possession of the Dyer family many years ago, and within its doors many notable social gatherings have been held. Since the death of the wife of the second Governor, the mother of Colonel H. Anthony Dyer, the family has not occupied it.

It is of the usual two-story style of architecture found in the typical Colonial mansion, with long open porch extending practically the entire length of the front and with entrance directly into the centre of the building, an excellent example of Colonial doorways.

Around the edge of the roof is the usual low balustrade, not only ornate but also practical, in masking the otherwise plain roof. This house, however, differs from many others in that it has a second balustrade of a different pattern from the lower one, extending around a square cupola-like elevation at the top, adding to the picturesqueness of the structure.



THE CONTINENTAL DOCK

"The Continental Dock," as it is familiarly known throughout New England, was not always the quite, deserted place depicted here. Under its portals, and past its ticket wicket, have passed hundreds of thousands of excursionists eager for a sail down Narragansett bay, and, until the trolley cars had usurped the steamers as a means of transportation to the resorts along both sides of the bay, the entire dock and often far out into the adjoining streets was frequently filled with thousands of persons awaiting the opening of the gates so they could board the company's boats.

Just when the building was erected is a question, but it has stood long enough to become a landmark for residents all over the United States who have ever been in Providence in the summertime. It is now the office building of the Providence, Fall River and Newport Steamboat Company.

It was built, probably, just after the close of the Civil War, for in 1865 the American Steamboat Company was instituted to operate a regular passenger and freight line of steamers to Newport, and excursion boats to the resorts on the bay. The company was incorporated and organized in the spring of 1865, with Earl P. Mason as President and Benjamin Buffum, treasurer and manager.

The land where the building and wharf stand was purchased by Mr. Mason from Byron Sprague, a brother of A. W. Sprague, and here has been the official home of the steamboat company ever since, although the name has twice been changed, to the Continental Steamboat Company in 1876, and to the present form about twenty years ago.



THE PHILIP WALKER HOMESTEAD

When King Philip and the Wampanoags started on the marauding expedition which was later dignified by the name of "King Philip's War," they burned and pillaged as they went. Settlers along the line of their march were terrorized and among the buildings burned was the homestead at what is now Massasoit avenue and North Broadway in East Providence.

The house was burned, but its foundation, laid by skilled and careful hands, remained, and upon these stones the building pictured opposite was erected in 1679, nearly two hundred fifty years ago, by Philip Walker. With his mother, young Walker had come to what was then Rehoboth, in 1643, with Rev. Samuel Newman's colony.

For many years the house was known as "The Old Red House," red being the color which it was originally painted. It is still owned and occupied by descendants of its builder. In front of the house is the old curbed well, with its sweep and bucket, which early generations of the family used. They are carefully preserved, although long in disuse.



OLD WHITE CHURCH, RUMFORD

The rich Colonial lines that characterize the early New England meeting house are strikingly preserved in this gem of Puritan simplicity, "The Old White Church," or the Newman Congregational Church, as it is called, from its founder, Rev. Samuel Newman, located at Rumford.

The "Old White Church" was founded in 1646, old style. When the long dispute over the boundary of Rhode Island and Massachusetts was settled in 1862, in such a way that the westerly part of Seekonk, Mass., was annexed to Rhode Island, and became known as East Providence, this church was one of the priceless heirlooms of Colonial days that came into the possession of this State.

The change in the boundary line made the "Old White Church" the oldest one of the Congregational denomination in Rhode Island.

The original site was where the cemetery now is, designated in the town meeting records of October 8, 1646, as in the "midst of the town." On February 3, 1647, the drum was ordered to be sounded in token of the completion of the first edifice.

The present building was completed on March 30, 1810, at the trifling cost of \$4,488.94. The church was rededicated on May 17, 1891, after it had been partly reconstructed. A notable line of pastors, and the history of the "First Precinct in Rehoboth" are inseparably connected with this noble meeting house.



THE SHEFFIELD FARMHOUSE

A familiar landmark near Quonochontaug Beach on Rhode Island's south shore is the Sheffield Farmhouse, also known as the "Half Way House" located on the Lucas Farm, one of the most historic grants of land in the South County. It consists of more than forty-five acres which has an open frontage of more than two thousand feet on the Atlantic ocean at Quonochontaug. This property has recently changed hands and is to be cut up into lots for summer properties.

The farm was originally granted by the Indians to Thomas Stanton about 1660 and passed as dowry to Rebecca Stanton, who became Mrs. Thomas Sheffield in 1710. It was at about this time that the dwelling which forms this sketch is said to have been constructed. Six generations of the Sheffield family successively passed their years on this farm, among them being Major Thomas Sheffield, who served with the American forces in the Revolutionary War.

The property passed out of the possession of the Sheffield family and Albert Pendleton became its owner. It was sold to Aaron Lucas in 1888 and recently was purchased by Howard E. Thorp and Rogers E. Trainor of Westerly.



BEAVER TAIL LIGHTHOUSE, JAMESTOWN

Few excursionists or others, who round the ocean-laved and illuminated headland on the southern end of the Island of Conanicut, at the mouth of Narragansett bay, are aware of the fact that here was located the first lighthouse on the American seaboard. But the more natural inquiry concerning the place is regarding its singular name of Beaver Tail.

Looking at a map of Narragansett Bay it will be seen that the island is shaped very much like a beaver, the northwestern extremity being the head and the southern, the tail, and the earlier settlers called the whole, Beaver, and named the upper extremity Beaver Head and the lower, Beaver Tail.

As to the Beaver Tail Lighthouse, the point bore a watch tower and beacon fire in Colonial times, perhaps as early as 1667, certainly in 1690 to warn the people of the approach of any hostile fleets. Unquestionably here was one of the "seven watch towers erected along the coast" and one of the "five beacons established upon commanding heights" in 1740. In 1744, the old watch tower and beacon at Point Judith and Beaver Tail were renewed and in 1749 a lighthouse was ordered to be built at Beaver Tail which was accomplished during the next year.

The records show this to be the oldest lighthouse on the Atlantic coast. The second lighthouse was the Brant lighthouse at the entrance to Nantucket harbor, erected in 1754; the third was Sandy Hook in 1764; the fourth at Great Point, on Nantucket, in 1784 and the fifth was the Race Point light at Provincetown in 1792.

In 1753 Beaver Tail Lighthouse having been burned down, the General Assembly ordered a new one to be constructed of brick or stone with a house adjoining for the use of the keeper. In October, 1779, the lighthouse at Beaver Tail was burned by the British on their evacuation of Newport. It was soon rebuilt.



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